New automobile policy

57. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a new automobile policy; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) This matter is under consideration of the Government.

Shortage of LPG Refills

58. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of LPG refills in Delhi and the consumers are supplied refills after one week of the booking made with the dealer;

(b) if so, what are the reasons of the short supply of LPG refills;

(c) whether Government are aware of the difficulties and inconvenience being experienced by the consumers for not getting LPG refills for one week or so; and

(d) what efforts have been made by Government to ensure supply of refills to the LPG consumers within the shortest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (c) There was some backlog in supply of refills in Delhi/New Delhi recently. The main reasons were as follows:

(i) Increased winter demand.

(ii) Reduced bottling at Shakurbasti (Delhi) plants of Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation, following erratic functioning of filling machines and weighing systems.

(iii) Law and Order situation in some areas of Old Delhi.

(d) Extra supplies were arranged from Mathura, Koyali, Bombay and Allahabad. With rectificatory steps at the Shakurbasti bottling plants having been completed, the situation has improved.

Electrification of villages through non-conventional sources of energy

59. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for electrification of villages through non-conventional sources of energy;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether the State Electricity Boards have been advised in this respect; and

(d) if so, the guidelines issued to them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The programme of initial electrification through provision of solar photovoltaic street lighting units was taken up as a demonstration programme by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources through the Rural Electrification Corporation, State Electricity Boards and State Renewable Energy Agencies. So far, over 200 villages have been provided with photovoltaic street lights and in some cases with photovoltaic systems for community facilities. Electrification of villages in remote and backward areas using non-conventional energy sources has been included in the Seventh Plan document also. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the Rural Electrification

Corporation are developing a suitable programme. The extent of this programme will depend on financial resources that may be made available for this purpose. Meanwhile, the installation of solar photovoltaic streets lights and lights for community uses in additional villages is continuing. The Rural Electrificaton Corporation have advised State Electricity Boards that they can take up electrification of remote villages by means of solar photovoltaic devices under this programme and set off the expenditure for part of the cost against loans by REC for rural electrification.

New model of Maruti Car

60. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Limited has suspended the production of cars;

(b) if so, since when and what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it proposes to change the model of the Maruti Car and revise its prices;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) by when the changed model shall reach the customers and what shall be its price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Maruti Udyog Limited suspended its production in middle of March, 1986 for the purpose of installing facilities required to expand its production capacity.

(c) to (e) The Company is bringing out an updated model of the Saloon car in mid 1986 which would be more fuel efficient and technologically better compared to the existing model. Its price is yet to be announced by the company.

Setting up of a Bench of Allahabad High Court for Western U.P.

61. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has recently recommended to the Central Government to establish a Bench of Allahabad High Court for the Western Districts and if so, when this recommendation was made;

(b) whether Government are aware that an agitation is going on in Allahabad led by Advocates against the demand for the establishment of a bench of the Allahabad High Court in Western U.P.

(c) whether it is also a fact that advocates of Allahabad High Court have threatened that in case a Bench was established for Western districts they will start a forceful agitation for division of the State; and

(d) whether advocates of some Western districts are agitating in favour of establishment of a Bench for Western districts and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. A proposal for establishment of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court for the Western districts of Uttar Pradesh was however, received from the State Government in its letter dated 14th March, 1981.

(b) and (c) The Government have seen press reports regarding agitation by the lawyers of Allahabad High Court against the establishment of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court for the Western districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) The Government is aware of the agitation by lawyers of western districts of Uttar Pradesh for the establishment of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court in that area.